



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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March 15, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Tarek Makki and Adham Mackie

**TWO MEN SENTENCED ON TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT ZIG ZAG PAPER PRODUCTS
CHARGES**

Two men who pled guilty to trafficking in counterfeit Zig Zag® papers products and related charges were sentenced on March 14, 2006, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announced by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to the fifteen count indictment, Tarek Makki, age 41, and Adham Mackie, age 38, both of whom resided in Dearborn, violated federal law by operating an off-shore counterfeiting scheme involving the smuggling and/or clandestine importation into the United States of thousands of cases of counterfeit Zig Zag cigarette paper products that were manufactured/repackaged in among other locations, Jakarta, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Bollore, Inc. was an internationally known distributor of specialty paper products, and

has for over a century, used the “Zig Zag” trademark and the depiction of a bearded man (the “Smoking Man Design”) trademark (collectively, the “Zig-Zag® Trademarks”) in connection with its cigarette paper products, cartons, cases and booklets. Both the Zig Zag® and the Smoking Man Design® trademarks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Tarek Makki was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment, a Special Assessment of \$600 and restitution in the amount of \$879,056. Adham Mackie was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment, a Special Assessment of \$500 and restitution in the amount of \$879,056. These sentences were imposed by the Honorable Avern Cohn, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

“The interdiction of counterfeit trademark goods protects the integrity of the market and prevents wrongdoers from profiting from the hard work of others,” said United States Attorney Murphy. “We are pleased that the sentences in this case match the seriousness of the crime.”

The criminal charges in this case were the result of an investigation by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Gary Felder.